D/43



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INQUIRE=DOC18D
ITEM NO=00038761
ENVELOPE
CDSN = LGX271  MCN = 92134/43554  TOR = 921342226
OTTCZYUW RUEKJCS7680 1342226-CCCC--RUEALGX.
ZNY CCCCC
HEADER
O 132?26Z MAY 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUWTPGA/12 AF BERGSTROM AFB TX//IN//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEALGX/SAFE
O 132222Z MAY 92
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHNA/DEAHQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9839
RHLBAAA/USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUEAIIA/CIAHQS WASHDC
RUEABND/DEA EPIC
RUEOHNA/CDR7THSFGA FT BRAGG NC
RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ3-DDD/SCJ2/
RUEBMRA/USCUSTOMS WASHDC 0138
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCDCS/SCJ2-DEA-LNO/SCCG//
RULSJGA/COMCOGARD WASHDC//OLE/CI/O//
RULGSGG/COMLANTAREA COGARD//NEW YORK NY/AOO/AI/AO//
RUEBWJA/USINS WASHDC
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2404
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//CD-JIC-TS//
RHEHOND/ONDCP WASHDC
RUEBWJA/USINS WASHDC
RUCBLBA/USCG IMLET PORTSMOUTH VA
BT
CONTROLS
C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 007772

STATE FOR ARA/AND, INM
DEAHQS FOR A, AD, DO, AO, OF, OFL, OC, OC/SNOWCAP,
OI/BLY, OID/BERTINI, OIO, OIOB/NOLAN, OIC, OIF, OIFI,
OIS, OISS/ZOLAK
INS PLEASE PASS TO BORDER PATROL
NSC FOR R. BEERS
ONDCP FOR J. WALTERS
USIA FOR AR
USSOUTHCOM FOR SCJ3-DDD FOR GONZALES AND VERO

E. O. 12356:DECL: OADR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IS/FPC/CDR Date: 5/26/95
MR Cases Only:
EO Citations
TS authority to:
( ) CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C OADR
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C OADR
(X) RELEASE (X) DECLASSIFY
( ) EXCISE ( ) DECLASSIFY IN PART
( ) DENY
( ) DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions

BODY
TAGS: SNAR, BL
SUBJECT: RED DEVILS HELICOPTER SUPPORT

1. SUMMARY: MISSION COUNTERNARCOTICS EFFORTS SINCE JANUARY HAVE TAXED THE AVAILABLE UH-1H ASSETS TREMENDOUSLY. THIS CABLE IS BEING SENT TO INFORM ADDRESSEES THAT A POSTPONEMENT OF NEW MAJOR INITIATIVES WILL BECOME NECESSARY IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO PERMIT REQUIRED AND ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE OF THESE ASSETS. CONTINUED SUPPORT OF GHOST ZONE WILL NOT BE IMPAIRED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NAS AIRWING AND RED DEVIL TASK FORCE MAINTENANCE SECTION COMMITMENT TOWARDS OPERATION GHOST ZONE HAS PUT A STRAIN ON UH-1H SCHEDULED AND UNSCHEDULED MAINTENANCE.

3. SINCE THE INCREASE FROM TWELVE HELICOPTERS TO A TOTAL OF TWENTY-TWO IN EARLY 1991, THE MAINTENANCE SECTION HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MAINTAIN CONFORMANCE WITH THE INCREASED OPERATIONAL PACE DUE TO LACK OF MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL. IN THE PAST, MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN ABLE TO SURGE PRODUCTION OUTPUT DURING A SLIGHT MISSION DECREASE, EITHER DURING DEA'S SNOWCAP ROTATION OR A REDUCTION IN CHAPARE ACTIVITY. THE RED DEVILS MAINTENANCE SECTION HAS THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF MECHANICS TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS, BUT HAS NOT HAD PERSONNEL AVAILABLE TO PERFORM SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE DUE TO TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. OF THE SIXTY-FIVE MECHANICS ASSIGNED, TWO-THIRDS HAVE EITHER BEEN TO CONUS FOR TRAINING DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS, OR ARE CURRENTLY IN TRAINING.

4. NOT ONLY WAS THE AIRWING HEAVILY COMMITTED TO TRAINING BECAUSE OF PRIOR REQUESTS, BUT FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS, THE UH-1H FLEET HAS FLOWN A TOTAL OF EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY HOURS, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF HOURS THE TASK FORCE HAS EVER FLOWN OVER A THREE MONTH PERIOD. THIS EQUATES TO TWELVE MAINTENANCE PHASES, THREE ENGINE CHANGES IN A FIELD ENVIRONMENT, AN INCREASE IN UNSCHEDULED MAINTENANCE DUE TO THE INCREASE IN FLIGHT HOURS, AND THE NORMAL SEVENTY-TWO CYCLE MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS REQUIRED.

5. ANTICIPATING THAT OPERATION GHOST ZONE WILL CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS, A REDUCTION IN MISSIONS IS REQUIRED DURING THE LAST WEEKS OF MAY AND JUNE SO THAT THE RED DEVILS CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SAME RELIABLE SUPPORT AS IN THE PAST. THIS REDUCTION

IS MANDATORY, AND THE LA PAZ CO WILL ADJUST AND PRIORITIZE OPERATIONS AS NEEDED.

6. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT UH-LH OPERATIONAL HOURS FOR MAY-JULY, 1992, CANNOT EXCEED 300 HOURS MONTHLY FOR ALL AVAILABLE ASSETS COMBINED.

BOWERS
ADMIN
BT

#7680

NNNN